**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED AND UNSTARRED QUESTIONS SET FOR THE 9TH AUGUST, 2002*

Import of electronic waste from U.S.A.

*381. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that electronic waste is exported from U.S.A. to Asian countries, including India;

(b) whether the waste is hazardous for public health; and

(c) if so, what safety measures are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Electronic waste is included under List-A and List-B of Schedule-3 of the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 as amended in 2000. The import of this waste therefore requires specific permission of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. No such permission has been given to any authority or person by the Ministry till date.

Biotech alliance with USA

*382. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and the United States have formed a biotech alliance under the aegis of US- India Economic dialogue;

(b) whether this alliance would work towards collaboration in research areas and international trade treaties; and

(c) if so, what are the details of this agreement and the scope of the cooperation?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) The Confederation of Indian Industry has taken

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**The sitting of the Rajya Sabha on Friday, the 9th August, 2002 was adjourned due to interruptions in the House. Answers to Questions put down in the lists for that day were laid on the Table of the House on Monday, the 12th August, 2002.